
THE RECENT
HISTORY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

BEING THE

ANNUAL UNIVERSITY LECTURE

FOR THE

SESSION OF 1882-3.

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PRINCIPAL DAWSON, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S.

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The charter of McGill University dates from the year 1821, so that it is really sixty-two years of age; but its actual history as a teaching institution began somewhat later, and the present is reckoned as its fiftieth session, in so far as its oldest Faculties, those of Medicine and Arts, are concerned. Owing to protracted litigation, the property bequeathed by James McGill did not come into the possession of the Board of Governors until 1829. On the 29th of June in that year, the University was formally opened in the old residence of the founder, Burnside House; the Montreal Medical Institute, which had already been in existence for some years, was incorporated with it as its Faculty of Medicine, and a little later its Faculty of Arts was constituted with a principal and three professors or lecturers. Many untoward circumstances conspired to check the growth of the infant institution, and it was not until the changes effected by the amended charter in 1852 that it entered on a career of rapid progress. Of the men who were then prominent in its coun-

cils, only three, our Chancellor Judge Day, Senator Ferrier and Archdeacon Leach, remain to witness its more recent growth.

Within these thirty years its revenues have grown from a few hundred dollars to about \$40,000 per annum, without reckoning the fees in professional Faculties and the income of the more recent benefactions. Its staff has increased from the original eight instructing officers to thirty-nine. The number of students has increased to 415 actually attending college classes, or reckoning those of the Normal School and of affiliated colleges in Arts, to nearly 600. Its Faculties of Law and Applied Science have been added to those of Arts and Medicine. It has two affiliated colleges in Arts and four in Theology, and has under its management the Provincial Protestant Normal School. Its buildings, like itself, have been growing by a process of accretion, and the latest, that in which we are now assembled, (the Peter Redpath Museum) is far in advance of all the others, and a presage of the college buildings of the future. We have five chairs endowed by private benefactors, fourteen endowed scholarships and exhibitions, besides others of a temporary nature, and eight endowed gold medals. More than this, we have sent out about 1200 graduates, of whom more than a thousand are occupying positions of usefulness and honour in this country. Two years ago, I issued cards of invitation to 850 graduates whose addresses were known to me, and received more than 600 replies.

Our friends sometimes say to us that we should rest content with what we have thus attained, and that an institution so great as McGill is quite in advance of the requirements of Canadian education. But if we measure our growth with that of the city of Montreal, or with that of the Dominion of Canada, we shall not find so much cause to congratulate ourselves, and if we compare our means of educational usefulness with those of the greater Universities of older countries, we shall have still less reason to boast. Here I would say that we should not regard McGill merely as an institution for Montreal or for the Province of Quebec, but for the whole of Canada. Primarily, no doubt, it was intended to subserve the interests of the English-speaking people of this province, but at this moment half of its students are from other provinces, and its founders and early supporters secured for it a Canadian status, in the connection with it of the Governor-General as its Visitor, which it still retains. At first

sight it might seem that its name is too restrictive for such high claims; but practically this is not the case. Had it been named the University of Montreal, a stronger local colouring would have been given to it. In the United States, those Universities, which, like Harvard, Yale, Cornell and Johns Hopkins, bear the names of individual men, have become, or are likely to become, the widest in their influence. In Canada, Laval, Dalhousie and McGill Universities, and Morrin College, bear such individual names, and they are not likely, on that account, to have narrower fields of usefulness or to fail to attract to themselves the benefactions of other friends of education. On the contrary, every new benefactor justly regards it as an honour to connect his name with that of an eminent founder, and the benefactions of one man, perpetuated in his name, tend to stimulate others to like good deeds, and thus to attract, as by a magnetic influence, additional gifts. The truth of this is proved by the recent bequests and subscriptions to this University, to which I shall have to refer in the sequel.

Another principle, strikingly illustrated in our history, and connected with some of our recent acquisitions, is that small beginnings of any good thing are to be cherished and cultivated. Our library began in 1855 with the purchase of a small collection of historical and literary works, which the Governors, poor though the college was, ventured to make as a nucleus, and which occupied a few plain shelves in a small room of the old Burnside Hall. When at a later period Mr. William Molson presented us with our present library and its handsome book-cases, we were asked what was the use of a quantity of empty shelves. The answer was that they were gaping for books, and they have long since had to be extended and enlarged; nay, an additional room has recently been added for our law books and public records, and for the library presented to us in the present year by one of the Governors, the Honorable Judge Mackay. Our philosophical apparatus consisted in 1855 of a few instruments of antique pattern bequeathed to the University by the late Dr. Skakel, a man who both as the head of the Royal Grammar School the predecessor of the present High School, and as a cultivator of science, deserves to be held in grateful remembrance. These have been used and cared for and added to until they have grown to the fine collection now in the care of Dr.

Johnson, which is probably the best of the kind in this country. Our little observatory tower, built in faith when we had no telescope, was to become the home of the Blackman telescope and its accompanying apparatus for astronomical observations. Not very long ago we had no chemical laboratory. We have now two laboratories capable of accommodating sixty-five students in practical work, and they have grown up under the care of Dr. Harrington and Dr. Girdwood almost imperceptibly and with little cost to the University. We are still destitute of a physical laboratory, except in so far as our meteorological observatory serves the purpose; but this is a small beginning to which more will be added. The observatory itself is a case in point. Originally built to aid the late Dr. Smallwood in his work, it has grown under Prof. McLeod into an important Dominion institute, both for weather observations and for time, and was able to take an important part in the recent observations of the transit of Venus. When in 1855 I enquired as to the museum of the University, the Registrar informed me that there were no collections of any kind, but on second thought he produced from a drawer a specimen of one of the most common fossil corals from our quarries, and said that this had been presented to the college—by whom, I know not. It was a small beginning, but it has gathered around it our present magnificent collections, and it still keeps its place in one of the cases of the Peter Redpath Museum.

The recent history of our collections in Natural Science also reminds me of the fact that there have been not a few reverses and apparent failures in the course of our efforts. In my first session in McGill the want of a museum was supplied by my private collection, which was somewhat valuable; but in the calamitous fire which destroyed Burnside Hall and which was in every respect a check to the University, the greater part of this collection was destroyed, and neither I nor the University had the means immediately to replace it. At a later date we trusted to the Geological Survey collection as a means of supplementing our work in geology, but this was unexpectedly taken from us, and we were thrown upon our own resources. These losses we have, however, more than retrieved, and possess to-day the most valuable collections in this country for educational uses.

Other and greater losses and failures we have had to encounter.

In 1870, in an address similar to the present, I was obliged to confess the suspension of our School of Engineering in the following terms:

"Our School of Engineering, successful in the number of pupils attracted to it, and calculated to confer great benefits on the country, was worried with professional and official opposition; and, unaided by the public, was at length suspended, owing to the temporary financial embarrassments of the University. Our chair of Practical Chemistry, though filled by the most eminent Chemist in this country, has failed to attract our artisans or manufacturers to receive its benefits."

"Some men may regard these efforts as failures, which should not be referred to here. For my own part I am not ashamed of them. Directly or indirectly, they have done good; there is not one of them which is not important to the material progress of this country; and there is not one of them which by us, or others, will not be at length successfully carried out. I do not yet despair of any of them; and I am prepared, should I remain in this University, to watch for the opportunity to revive them when favourable circumstances shall occur. In the meantime, they remain as projects inchoate and so far matured in their plans and methods, as to be readily brought to completion by the aid of any one desirous of stimulating through us the development of any of those arts to which they relate. We wait for some Canadian Lawrence or Sheffield to endow for us a Scientific School, like those of Harvard and Yale, which have contributed so greatly to the wealth and progress of New England."

We have not yet found the Lawrence or Sheffield after whom to name our School, but we have found many liberal benefactors. We have our Faculty of Applied Science under Prof. Bovey and his colleagues, instead of the little School of Engineering of former years; and by the recent bequest of a lady of this city, our chair of Civil Engineering has been permanently endowed, under the name of the William Scott chair. We have had the honour to find our example followed by the institution of similar schools in other parts of the Dominion, some at least of which are efficient and formidable rivals. We are still looking for donors who will give their names to chairs of Mining and Mechanical Engineering, and to a science building to match the Peter Redpath Museum, on the opposite side of our grounds.

At the close of the financial year of 1880-81, our income had ebbed in a most threatening manner. Being derived mainly from mortgages on real estate, it had run some risks and experienced a few losses in the commercial crisis of the preceding years. But when the tide of commercial prosperity turned, a greater calamity befel us in the fall of the rate of interest, which reduced

our revenue by nearly 20 per cent, and this at a time when no decrease of expenditure could be made without actual diminution of efficiency. In these circumstances the Board of Governors found it necessary to insist on most unwelcome retrenchments, injurious to our educational work, and which some of us would have been glad to avert even by much personal sacrifice and privation. At length on the 13th of October, 1881, we convened a meeting, not happily of our creditors, but of our constituents, the Protestant citizens of Montreal, and our position and wants were laid before them most ably, and, I may say, even pathetically, by the Chancellor, Judge Day, and the honorary treasurer, Mr. Ramsay. The meeting was a large and influential one, and I shall never cease to bear in grateful remembrance the response which it made.

There was no hint of blame for our extravagance, no grudging of the claims of the higher education which we represented, but a hearty and unanimous resolve to sustain the University and to give it more than the amount which it asked. The result of that meeting was the contribution of \$28,500 to the endowment fund, besides \$26,335 to special funds, including the endowment of Mr. W. C. McDonald's Scholarships, referred to in the sequel; and of \$18,445 in annual subscriptions, most of them for five years. But this was not all, for it was followed by two of those large and generous bequests of which this city may well be proud. Major Hiram Mills, an American gentleman, resident for twenty years in Montreal, and familiar with the struggles of the University, left us by will the handsome sum of \$43,000 to endow a chair in his name as well as a scholarship and a gold medal. On this endowment the Governors have placed the chair of classical literature. More recently our late esteemed friend and fellow-citizen, Mr. David Greenshields, has added to the many kind actions of a noble and generous life the gift of \$40,000 for the endowment of a chair, and which will probably be given to one of the more important scientific professorships in the Faculty of Arts. At a still later date, by the decease of Mr. Andrew Stuart of Quebec, the University comes into possession of the bequest of his late wife, a daughter of the late Judge Gale of this city, who desiring to perpetuate the memory of her father in connection with the profession of which he was long a leading member, left the sum of \$25,000 for the endowment

of a Samuel Gale chair in the Faculty of Law. Adding to these sums the bequest of Miss Barbara Scott already referred to, we have a total sum of more than \$200,000 given to the University by citizens of Montreal within two years. If we add to this the Peter Redpath Museum and its contents, with other donations, we may acknowledge benefactions within two years to the amount of about a third of a million.

I have made no mention as yet of the endowment in prospect for our Faculty of Medicine. It is somewhat singular that this school, so ably conducted and so useful, has drawn to itself so little of the munificence of benefactors. Perhaps the fact of its self-supporting and independent character has led to this. But the removal by death of its late Dean, Dr. Campbell, in connection with its attaining to its 50th anniversary, was well calculated to direct attention to its claims, and the occasion was most happily taken advantage of by the Dean, Dr. Howard, in his opening lecture of the present session. Dr. Campbell was a man of rare gifts and powers, combining professional eminence of the highest order with great business capacity, and enlightened and earnest public spirit, he was at the same time a man of wide sympathies and warm and generous heart. Having frequently had occasion to ask his advice and aid in matters, not of a professional character, which gave me some concern and anxiety, I can bear testimony to his qualities both of heart and head. The idea of commemorating the life and labors of such a man by sustaining and extending that medical education in which he took so warm interest, and for which he put forth efforts so strenuous, was one sure to bear fruit. Accordingly, we find one of our large-hearted business men, who had known Dr. Campbell and who was well fitted to appreciate his worth, offering to give \$50,000 toward a Campbell Memorial in the Faculty of Medicine, with the reasonable condition that a like sum shall be given by others.

I consider this sum of \$100,000 assured to the Medical Faculty, and I trust that it may enable it to strengthen and extend the good work which it is doing.

It is but right to add that while the University has been thus liberally dealt with, the past two years have been marked also by large benefactions to all its affiliated colleges—benefactions in which we cordially rejoice.

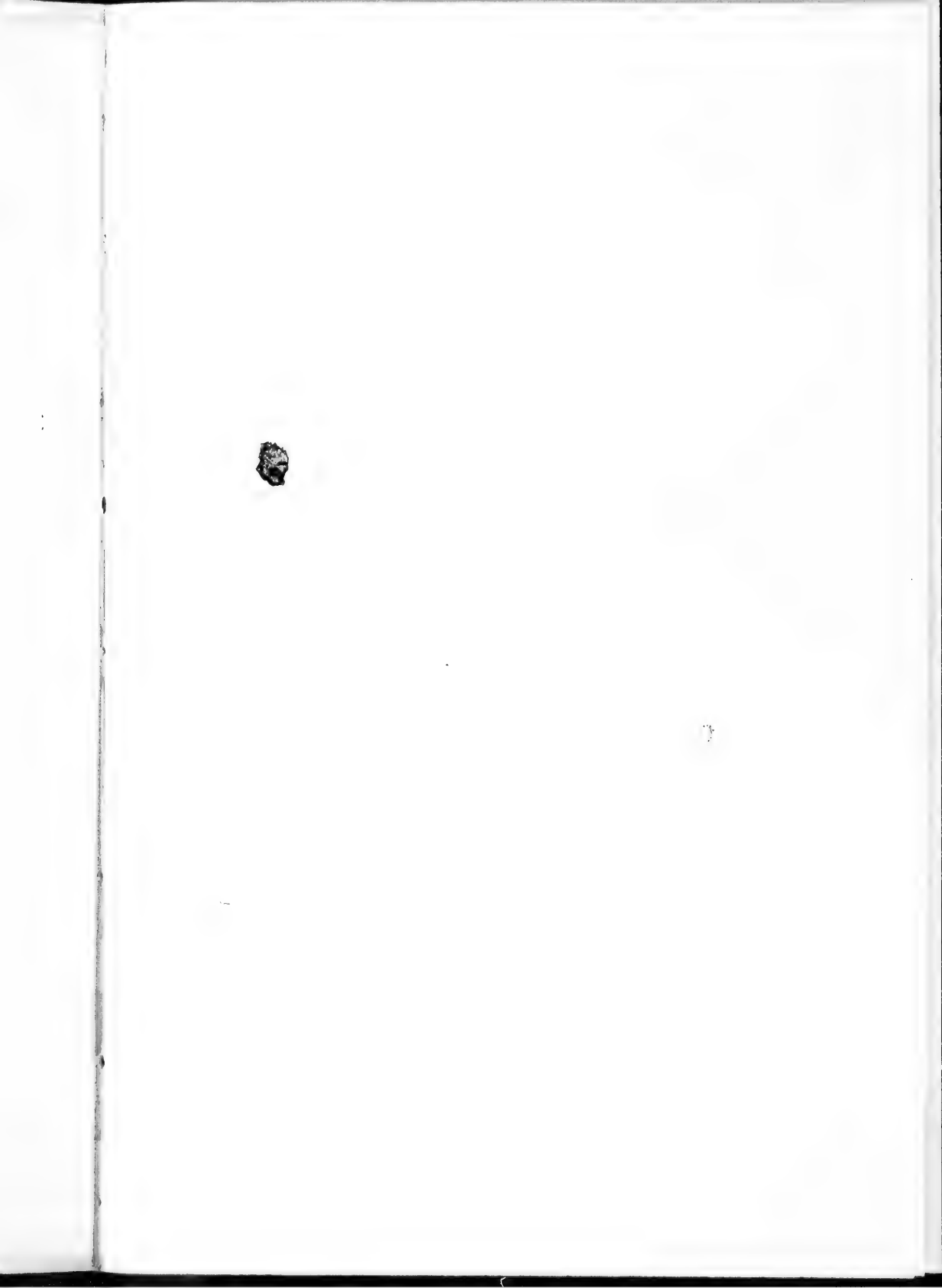
Thus the hard experience of 1881 has been followed by the

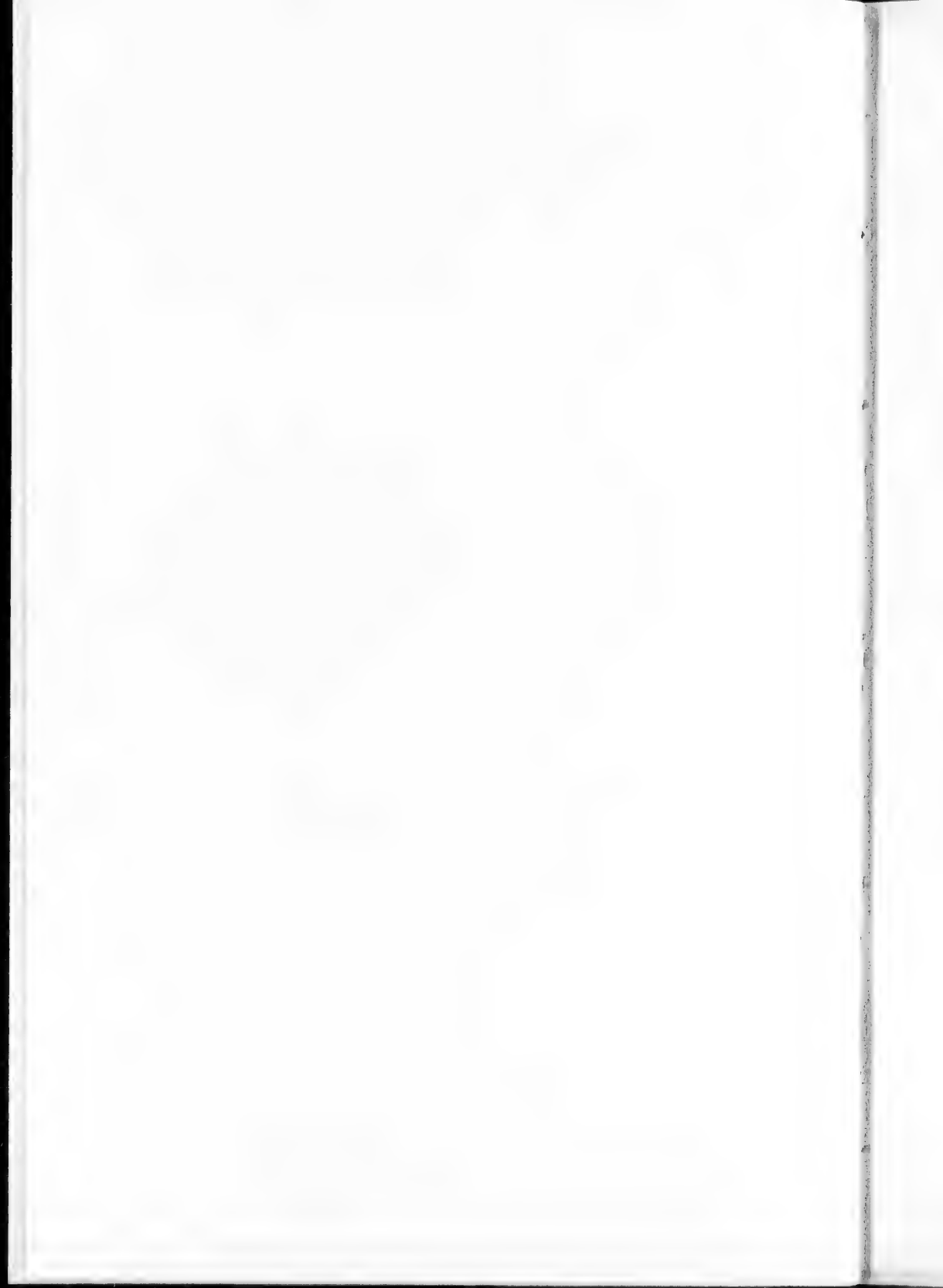
prosperity of 1883, and has served to draw forth evidence of liberality most creditable to the public spirit of the citizens of Montreal, and to show in a convincing manner the estimation in which our work is held in that community in which it is best known. You need not, however, be surprised when I add that these gifts and bequests, liberal though they are, will do little more than enable the University to carry on without abatement, and perhaps with somewhat greater efficiency, the operations it has already undertaken. It must be borne in mind that a large deficit had to be covered, and that the Governors may feel it to be their duty to provide adequately for the men already employed before increasing their number, and also to make some provision for the contingencies necessarily occurring in a large institution.

I may now proceed to notice some of the objects to which the additional means the University has obtained or may obtain can beneficially be applied, and the directions which, in my judgment, its more immediate growth should take. The wants still unsupplied in the Faculty of Applied Science have been already mentioned. It is working under great disadvantages in the absence of a suitable building, and we have even been under the necessity of considering the expediency of discontinuing one of its courses of study, that of mechanical engineering, which is now provided for by extra labour on the part of professors having other duties. To place this Faculty on a secure basis, we need a building costing at least \$60,000, and an additional endowment fund of at least \$40,000.

The Museum erected for us by the bounty of Mr. Redpath has all the necessary accommodation for a large school of Natural science, but it has not yet the requisite staff. The studies represented here by Dr. Harrington and myself cover the ground which even in some Colonial Universities occupies the whole time of at least four men. The staff of the Peter Redpath museum will not be complete until we have salaries for an additional professor and for a curator who might also be a lecturer. Could this be done in my lifetime, it would not only enable me to complete useful enterprises now delayed for want of time, but would give the satisfaction of knowing that the results of my work would not run any risk of passing away with myself.

One of the chairs in the Faculty of Arts, in which I have always taken a great interest, is that of Hebrew and Oriental Literature.





Independently of its essential character as a preparation for the Christian ministry, the study of the Semitic languages and literature has great claims to attention. Philologically it introduces the student to a language somewhat remote from that group to which English, as well as Greek, Latin, French and German belong, and thus enlarges his conceptions of the essence of language. Its literature is the oldest in the world, and in many respects the noblest and most elevated. Even as a student of science I have felt that it was necessary to get beyond the circle of the Aryan tongues; and as a young man I contrived to add to the compulsory Latin and Greek something of optional Hebrew, and I have never had occasion to regret this. In a University like McGill, with which four theological colleges are connected, this chair becomes especially important, yet while in most Universities increasing attention has of late years been given to the subject, I am sorry to say that we have not been advancing as we should. We were fortunate for many years in enjoying, at a merely nominal salary, the valuable services of the late Dr. De Sola, a man of great learning in the Semitic languages and their literature, and most enthusiastic in their cultivation. But in his later years, the classes had grown so large and varied, that with other duties and failing health he could scarcely give them due attention; and on his removal by death we were not in a position to offer an adequate salary to a successor. The chair is now vacant, and though we have secured a portion of the time of Prof. Coussirat, a gentleman most competent to discharge the duties until permanent arrangements can be made, it is in every way desirable that means should be secured to warrant a permanent appointment. The Board of Governors has issued an appeal to our friends on the subject, asking for an endowment of \$2,600 per annum for this chair; and as the object is one of great importance to the Theological colleges and to the University, it is hoped that before long the application may meet with a favourable response. The Hebrew classes in the present session contain forty students, and may be expected soon to reach the number of fifty, so that there will be sufficient work to occupy the whole time of a Professor.

The subject of the division of chairs is one of great interest in our present stage of progress. The essence of a University education consists in its being given not by general teachers but by

specialists, combining general culture with eminence in particular departments. Hitherto in our Canadian Universities we have been compelled by poverty to combine in one professorship subjects which, in order that they may be well and profoundly taught, require distinct teachers. The whole case is so clearly stated by Dr. Wilson, President of Toronto University, that I shall quote his words:—

"But while our students have been multiplying from dozens to hundreds, the staff of teachers remains unchanged. Such a state of things will, therefore, justify a comparison between the teaching staff provided for carrying on the work of this college and that of other well appointed colleges in Great Britain or on this continent. In nearly all of them it will be found that provision is made for a much greater division of subjects. Instead of one professor of classical literature, as in University College, it is usual to make separate professorships of the Greek and Latin languages and literature. Separate chairs of mathematics and natural philosophy take the place of what is here a single professorship. The same is the case with zoology and botany; and not only is history a chair distinct from that of rhetoric and English literature, with which it is here conjoined, but ancient history is constituted a separate chair from modern history; while in many cases the latter is conjoined with political economy, or is made to embrace the important subjects of constitutional history and jurisprudence."

"The necessity of some greater division in the teaching of the various subjects embraced in the college curriculum is being more and more forced on the attention of the Council, alike by the increase in the number of students and by the augmentation in the number and the subdivision of subjects required in the revised statutes of the University for proceeding to a Degree in Arts."

Dr. Wilson's argument applies with equal force to McGill; and with us, also, it will be absolutely necessary in a few years to make provision for a division of the classical chair, and for the separation of mathematics from natural philosophy. In the latter department some relief has already been secured by the appointment of Mr. Chandler as mathematical lecturer, and at least a similar provision must be made with as little delay as possible in classics. Dr. Cornish has now for a quarter of a century well and ably borne the burden of the combined chairs of Latin and Greek, and it is time that he should have some relief.

Dr. Wilson refers to the greater subdivision of the college curriculum as requiring more work. Similar changes have been recently made here, in concession to the demand for more varied optional courses of study. That this is an improvement I fully believe, and anticipate that it will tend to a wider and more liberal

culture, and will attract students to the University; but to carry it out effectually it will demand more men. Our professors are now cheerfully bearing whatever burden it imposes; but they feel that in many details better arrangements would be possible were the work of teaching more subdivided.

A further point to which I shall barely allude is that of summer sessions. Our present winter session in Arts is very short, and it seems scarcely possible in consistency with the interests of students much to extend it. But in some subjects at least, a short summer session would be practicable. The Medical Faculty has already instituted such a session with great benefit, and I hope before long to have summer sessions in natural science in connection with the Peter Redpath Museum. To what extent students could be secured for summer classes in other subjects, it is difficult to say, but the experiment deserves a trial.

Another subject to which the attention of our Corporation has been invited in the present session is the higher education of women. At one of the earlier meetings connected with the endowment of the University, a resolution was passed asking us, in consideration of the aids received, to give some attention to this matter, and our Chancellor promised on behalf of the University that consideration would be given to it. I have always felt that a moral obligation was thus imposed on us; and independently of this, every right thinking man must feel that the subject is one which no institution of higher education can now afford to neglect. In the hope of initiating a useful movement in this direction, I endeavoured in 1870 to interest ladies of influence in the city in the formation of a Ladies' Educational Association, and promised them all the aid that the University could give. For twelve years this association has been doing good work, and has practically done very much to elevate the whole educational tone of the city. Still further to stimulate effort in this direction, the University has instituted examinations open to women up to the standard of the University Intermediate. At the present moment, however, the lectures of the Ladies' Association cannot attain to the position of a regular course of study, and there are not facilities open to ladies desirous of taking the examinations offered by the University. In these circumstances various courses have been suggested, and a committee of the corporation was recently moved for by

the Rev. Dr. Murray, and has been instructed to report on their relative merits.

It is held by some of our friends that we might solve the difficulty by admitting women as students in our ordinary classes. But independently of many objections which may be urged against this course, there are material difficulties in the too limited space in our present class-rooms, and in the absence of separate halls and waiting rooms in our buildings. It would, however, be perfectly possible to provide separate lectures for ladies, if our professors were less heavily taxed or could be remunerated for extra work. We have already all that is required in collections, apparatus and means of illustration, and other deficiencies may be made up by division of chairs and additional buildings. In the present session I have had a large class of ladies in connection with the Educational Association, studying Zoology in the Peter Redpath Museum, and similar arrangements might be made by other professors if facilities were provided. My belief is, that if means could be secured to engage two or three special tutors or lecturers, for classes of women, the University with very little trouble could do all the rest. At the present moment there is some hope that by an arrangement between the Trafalgar Institute and the Ladies' Educational Association, the income of the bequest of the late Jane Scott to the former may be made available toward this end; and I may say here that the interest of any sums given to the University for investment in aid of Ladies' classes could immediately be used in connection with the Ladies' Association, while the principal might be retained for the endowment of a college for women. This is the position at present of the Hannah Willard Lyman fund.

I wish, however, to state here that I am not an advocate for precise similarity in the courses of higher education for young men and women, even though both should be prepared for the same final examinations. There should be a difference both in the proportions of the subjects taught and in the manner of teaching them suited to the difference in mind and character between the sexes, and to the different spheres of social and professional action open to men and to women. Some little experience in teaching classes of ladies enables me to say that in so far as science studies are concerned, the minds of young women are more acute and receptive as to details and distinctions than those of young

men, and consequently a lecture suited to male students is not so well suited to those of the other sex. I think any experienced and thoughtful teacher will find this to be the case.

Among the donations of the past year none deserves more grateful remembrance than that of \$25,000 from Mr. W. C. McDonald for the foundation of scholarships and exhibitions. It is true that this was merely the capitalizing of a sum of which the interest had been given by the liberal donor in previous years, and which had worthily earned for him the title,—friend of students, but it brings to remembrance a want from which McGill has long suffered, deficiency of those aids to poor and deserving students which have been so numerous in some other Universities, and of which we still have a too limited number.

Though sums given in this way do not extend our resources for teaching purposes, they enlarge our work by attracting students, and thus indirectly aid the University, while their benefits, in bringing to the front men of talent and capacity, are of the highest order. I would also suggest in this connection the formation of a fund for loans and aids to poor students who may not succeed in obtaining competitive scholarships. Cases of urgent need are constantly occurring among students, and there are men who can be aided in continuing at college even by temporary loans which they very rarely fail to repay.

In previous lectures and reports I have often referred to the singular and exceptional fact, depending on the peculiar position of the Roman Catholic institutions of this Province with reference to education, that degrees in Arts are not considered as affording the necessary qualifications to entrance into the study of professions. The law of the Province of Quebec is unique in this respect, and proceeds, apparently, on the principle that liberal education is to be discouraged as a means of preparation for professions, and mere cram for examinations promoted in its stead. The Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction has taken up this matter warmly, and has urged it upon the attention of the Government; but though it does not require any expenditure of money, and is a plain dictate of ordinary justice and common sense, there seem to be objections in some quarters which have so far prevented the government from acting on our recommendation. From an able letter on this subject, prepared by Dr. Heneker, Chancellor of Bishop's College, at

the request of the Protestant Committee, I quote the following :—

“ The Committee moreover insist very strongly on the absolute necessity of recognizing the University Degree as in itself a qualification for the entrance on the study of a profession. The two Protestant Universities, McGill and Bishop's College, are working to increase the quality of the degree. They are united on the subjects for matriculation in Arts, and although there are subsequent differences, so as to satisfy different classes of minds, yet both are earnest to require good work from their students. If the professional bodies will not accept men who have devoted three or four years of their strength to the study of Arts and Science, not in technicalities but on broad fundamental grounds, there would seem to be very little room for Universities at all in the Province of Quebec.”

This matter is one in relation to which the friends of higher education should continue to put forth earnest effort till our provincial law can be amended.

Dr. Heneker's letter also strongly urges the importance of those High Schools and Academies which supply the Universities with students, and prepare those who cannot take a University course for the entrance into professions. In connection with this, and with certain objections recently urged, I would earnestly entreat all who have the interest of the Protestant population of Montreal at heart, to permit nothing to be done to cripple our old and admirable High School, which has all along been the best feeder of the College, and the training school for those business men who have made the city what it is.

I must tax your patience a very little longer while I refer to two other subjects connected with our recent history and our future prospects :—

There has for some time been much earnest discussion in the Board of Governors and the Faculties respecting lodgings and eating rooms for students. Heretofore, with the exception of the provision made in the affiliated Theological colleges, nothing has been done except to enquire as far as possible into the character and sanitary condition of the private boarding houses patronised by students; and on the whole there has been little reason to complain of the accommodation afforded, and some of the persons who have had relations of this kind with our students have undoubtedly exerted themselves to the utmost to afford suitable accommodation. Still there can be no doubt that some of our students have suffered privations and risks to life and health which we would gladly have averted; and it is likely that with

increasing numbers of students the difficulty will grow upon us. It would indeed have already been serious but for the aid given by the Theological colleges. One cannot visit educational institutions in the United States without observing that this matter of the comfortable lodging of students is one that has commended itself more than most others to the liberality of benefactors. Very large numbers of College Halls and boarding houses bearing the names of their founders have grown up of late years in connection with American colleges, and they have been fitted up with every appliance conducive to health, comfort and facility for study. No better example could be set by any of our wealthy citizens than the provision of such college residences for students on our grounds, and I hope the matter will commend itself to the minds of some of those whom I address. As it is more difficult to obtain board than lodging, and many students would find it convenient to dine near to their college work, a well appointed dining hall near the college would be a most welcome addition to the comfort and well-being of students. Should any new buildings be founded for the college, I should be disposed to make it a matter of earnest consideration whether, either in such new building, or in portions of the old buildings which might be vacated, a dining hall could be established. I believe, however, that when this is done it should be done well and on a sufficiently large scale—otherwise it may be a failure, or not more beneficial than that which private persons can do with their own resources.

I would also endeavour to impress on our graduates the importance of completing the subscription already begun for endowment of the Principalship. I do not say this in my own interest. I would wish that the principal and interest of the fund should accumulate untouched during my tenure of office. I speak in the interest of my successor. Knowing how important it is that the head of an institution like this should be relieved as much as possible from the drudgery of teaching and of mere routine business, and should have time to think and act deliberately, to keep himself acquainted with all that concerns the wants and interests of the University, whether within or without, to extend hospitality to students, graduates, professors, benefactors and distinguished visitors, and to sustain the dignity and public consideration of the University, I feel that it is desirable that the best possible man should be secured for the office, and that he

should be furnished with means to enable him to occupy a high and influential position even in this wealthy city. Were this fund raised to such an amount as would render it certain that the governors can, when a vacancy occurs, feel sure of obtaining the services of the right man and of placing him in his proper position, one great source of anxiety would be removed from my mind, and from the minds of others who are interested in our welfare and who have laboured in our behalf.

In conclusion, permit me to say a word as to myself and my contemplated leave of absence. My connection with this University for the past twenty-eight years has been fraught with that happiness which results from the consciousness of effort in a worthy cause, and from association with such noble and self-sacrificing men as those who have built up McGill College. But it has been filled with anxieties and cares and with continuous and almost unremitting labor, on the details of which I need not now dwell. I have been obliged to leave undone or imperfectly accomplished many cherished schemes by which I had hoped to benefit humanity, and leave footprints of good on the sands of time. Age is advancing upon me, and I feel that if I am to labour much longer and fittingly to bring to a close the business of my life, I must have a breathing space to gird up my loins and refresh myself for what remains of the battle. For these reasons I have asked the Board of Governors for leave of absence for a year, in hope that, with God's blessing, I may return with vigour sufficient to sustain me for a few years more, and, if not, that I may at least make such arrangements as may ensure more perfectly the carrying out of my work by others. The Governors have kindly granted my request, and have offered to make such arrangements as may throw as little of the pecuniary burden on me as possible; though it is my purpose to bring no extra charge on the University in the matter, and to endeavour to make my leave of absence beneficial both in a financial and educational point of view. I appear before you, therefore, as one who has to say farewell for a time, and this is my reason for dwelling in so much detail on the wants of our immediate future. I wish to place on record some of the realities of our position, so that whether I return to my accustomed post or not, there may be a testimony as to the wants of the University as they appear to me; and I shall cherish the hope that if I return in 1884, I may find that some of them

have been supplied, and that all the varied portions of our work have gone on smoothly and successfully. The true test of educational work well done, is that it shall have life and power to continue and extend itself, after those who established it are removed. I believe that this is the character of our work here, and I shall leave it with the confident expectation that the session of 1883-84 will be quite as successful in my absence as in my presence. Such a result I shall regard as the highest compliment to myself. To this end I ask your earnest consideration of the practical thoughts presented this evening, and I pray that the blessing of God may rest on the University and on every part of it, and that it may be strengthened with His power and animated with His Spirit.